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T-688 P.041/049 F-117

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

**W. THIELE
K. WILDNER
H. MATSCHINER
S. PRIGGEMEYER
W. HARNISCHMACHER
P. ROHRIG**

Case No.: 60210-USA

Serial No. 09/830,617

Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN

Filed: APRIL 27, 2001

EXAMINER: UNKNOWN

FOR: CIRCULAR METHOD FOR PICKLING COPPER AND COPPER ALLOYS

Hon. Asst. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Before examining the application, please cancel claims 1-15 and substitute therefore the following claims:

1 16. (newly presented) A continuous method for pickling copper or a
2 copper alloy, the method comprising the steps of:

3 (a) pickling the copper or copper alloy with a pickling solution and
4 producing a spent pickling solution;

5 (b) regenerating the spent pickling solution to produce a regenerated
6 pickling solution; and

7 (c) introducing the regenerated picking solution into the pickling
8 solution;

9 In which: